System and Method for the Generation and Verification of Signatures Associated with Hardcopy Documents

Abstract

A system generates and verifies signatures on hardcopy documents. A signor key is associated with a signor of a hardcopy document. A document signature is generated using the signor key to encode data selected from document data required to be on the hardcopy document. The document signature is then associated with the hardcopy document. A data indicator is also associated with the hardcopy document and indicates which of the document data is used to generate the document signature. A verification section receives the hardcopy document having the document data thereon, and also receives the document signature and the associated data indicator. The verification section performs a comparison to determine whether the document signature was generated using the signor key and the document data indicated by the data indicator. An output section outputs an indication, based on the results of the comparison, of whether the document signature was generated using the signor key and the doc-
ument signature was generated using the signor key and the doc-

ument data indicated by the data indicator.